GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1655
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2004
TEA INDUSTRY WORKERS
Baxla Shri Joachim

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facilities of Provident Fund, Gratuity and LTC is being given to all workers working in the tea industry of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaint from any quarters for non-payment of Provident Fund, Gratuity to the workers at the time of retirement; and

(d) if so, the total number of complaints received and total amount of non-payment made by the Management to the workers in the last three years and the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a)&(b):Yes, Sir. The facilities of Provident Fund and Gratuity are available to all the eligible workers of the tea gardens in West Bengal. Benefits of LTC is enjoyed by staff members only and not by general body of workmen.

(c)&(d): As per the information received from Government of West Bengal, 118 tea gardens have reportedly defaulted in payment of Provident Fund dues to the tune of Rs. 43.26 crores approximately. There were also complaints of non-payment of gratuity to the workers in the tea gardens of North Bengal. Total number of complaints received regarding non-payment of gratuity is about 80. Out of these, certificates for recovery have been issued in 15 cases.